

SMITHFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.

HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

MINUTES

Members present: Mr. Richard Iannitelli, Chair, Mrs. Kellie-Ann Heenan, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Virginia Harnois, Secretary, Mr. Brenden Oates and Mr. Sean Clough. Also present were: Mr. Robert O'Brien, Superintendent, Mrs. Bridget Morisseau, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Craig Levis, Special Education Director, Mrs. Lisa Cournoyer, Business Manager, Mr. Ben Scungio Esq., School Committee/School Department Attorney. Mr. Matthew Strik, Student Representative to the School Committee. Mr. Iannitelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to:

A) Legal advice regarding Lawsuit JJ Cardosi vs. the town of Smithfield. RIGL42-46-5(a)(2).

B) Consideration of personal matter regarding teacher benefit. RIGL 42-46-5(a)1.

C) Matters pertaining collective bargaining. RIGL42-46-5(a)2.

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. This requires an individual vote. The individual vote was 5-0 polled by Mr. Iannitelli, Chair.

Returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Oates moved to seal the minutes of the April 28, 2014 Executive Session. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Oates moved to approve the executive session minutes of April 7, 2014. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. (Mrs. Harnois abstained from voting due to her absence on April 7, 2014).

1. Mr. Iannitelli read the Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification.

Mr. Iannitelli made note that item 2.4 approval of Gail Mooney, gr. 1 teacher at William Winsor, catastrophic medical leave through May 5, 2014 be added to the consent agenda.

2. Mr. Oates moved to approve Consent Agenda Items:

2.1 Minutes:

A) Minutes of the April 7, 2014 School Committee Meeting

2.2 Bills:

A) Regular Bills

B) Prepaid Checks from April 7, 2014 through April 25, 2014

C) Lunch Bills

2.3 Appointments:

A) Reanna Votta, Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach, Spring Season 2013-2014, pending submission of proper paperwork.

2.4 Leaves:

A) Gail Mooney, Gr. 1 teacher, William Winsor, catastrophic medical leave through May 5, 2014.

Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

High school representative Matthew Strik reported:

- Senior portfolio day is Wednesday. Underclassmen will be dismissed at 10:15 a.m.**
- On Friday during last period “Buckle up shuffle” will be taking place.**
- The sophomore semi is this Friday from 7pm – 10pm**
- Next Tuesday is World Language honor society induction.**

4. Item postponed.

5. Mr. Oates moved that an agreement to transition from CPI Common Remitter Service to The Omni Group as the third-party administrator for our 403(b) plan be approved. Mrs. Heenan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

CPI has transitioned the servicing of the school department's

403(b)/57 plan to The Omni Group, an independent Third Party Administrator specializing in 403(b) and 457 retirement plan administration. Attorney Lori Basilico has reviewed the agreement and stated that it is merely an acceptance of the assignment of the services to Omni. No other modifications will be made to the contract. Mr. O'Brien said that since the School Committee originally approved the agreement with CPI, this assignment should also be approved by the Committee.

6. Mr. Oates moved that there be a second reading and approval of the District's Basic Education Program policy. Mrs. Harnois seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

The Committee did a first reading at the last school committee meeting, and the subcommittee has also reviewed the policy.

7. There was a discussion of elimination of the February vacation on the school calendar.

Mr. O'Brien told the Committee that the executive board of the Superintendent's Association has voted unanimously to eliminate the February vacation for the 2015-2016 school year. He said some districts are eliminating the vacation next year. Mr. O'Brien told the Committee if we eliminate the February vacation next year we would be getting out of school on June 10th with no snow days, and if we have February vacation we would be getting out on June 16th with no snow days. The Committee discussed a variety of ideas and suggestions. In an effort to gather feedback, a district survey will be

created for parents. The calendar will be brought back to a future meeting once parent feedback is received.

Public comment: Mr. Kelley, Rosemarie Cipriano.

8. Mr. Oates moved that a request for the use of Anna McCabe little league field for August 9, 2014 be approved pending liability insurance authorization. Mr. Clough seconded the motion.

This is a request from University Orthodontics, located in Greenville to use the Anna McCabe little league field for a private carnival themed field day that would include carnival type games in booths, a dunk tank, and a bounce house. The event is not open to the public. It is proposed for their patients who are residents/students of Smithfield. Mr. O'Brien said the event has Smithfield Fire Department approval, and they will be obtaining private liability insurance for injuries and property damage.

The Committee discussed the proposed carnival, and expressed concerns. A member from University Orthopedics was present to answer questions and clarify concerns. The Committee suggested University Orthopedics check with the Town to check on permitting requirements with the town. Details of the event will be worked out with the Administration office and the item will be brought back to a future school committee meeting.

Mr. Oates rescinded his motion and tabled the item to the second school committee meeting in May. Mr. Clough seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Public comment: Rosemarie Cipriano, and parents from Anna

McCabe school.

9. The performance audit recommendations under high school instructional programs were discussed.

Recommendation #2 recommends that SHS adopt as a goal 80% scheduling efficiency by department. Recommendation #6 suggests that electives in all departments be justified yearly based on student demand and relevance to the core curriculum. Mr. Kelley was present to discuss the recommendations with the Committee. Mr. Kelley said the classes are generally within the 80% efficiency range, and will continue to reach the goal of 80% efficiency the best that they are able to. Going forward this will continue to be reviewed.

Mr. Kelley said the electives are based on student demand and going forward student preferences will continue to be considered. The process of justifying the curriculum will continue and will always be done. Any adjustments to elective courses with low enrollments will be reviewed.

Public comment: Matthew Strik, Rosemarie Cipriano

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A copy of a letter sent to the Smithfield Town Council recommending a bond issue for capital projects for town council consideration.

2. A copy of the quarterly financial report to the Division of Municipal Finance and Auditor General.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. O'Brien gave the Committee suggested dates for the High School Assistant Principal interviews. The Committee agreed upon May 14th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Interviews will take place at the Administration Building.

12. PUBLIC FORUM: None

13. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Mr. Oates suggested in an effort to increase transparency, the possibility of posting the digital recordings of the school committee meetings online on our website under the section of school committee minutes.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Not needed.

At 8:00 p.m. motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Oates; seconded by Mrs. Harnois. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lisa A. Petrone
Secretary**